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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MFA FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

BY

YAN GENG

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN

PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

IN

PAINTING
DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

EDMONTON, ALBERTA
WINTER 2009

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, for acceptance, a thesis entitled:

Sub-Sur-Face

Submitted by Yan Geng in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts.

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NAME OF AUTHOR: YAN GENG

TITLE OF THESIS: Sub-Sur-Face

DEGREE FOR WHICH THESIS WAS GRANTED: MASTER OF FINE ARTS

YEAR THIS DEGREE WAS GRANTED: 2009

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DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

GRADUATE STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

I hereby release the following works for incorporation into the University Collections, University of Alberta, as part of the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Collection:

TITLE	DATE	MEDIUM	SIZE
Bowing Out	2008	Acrylic and Oil On Linen	48" x 35.5"

Insurable Value: \$450

Sub-Sur-Face



Yan Geng

February 14, 2009

OPENING RECEPTION

Sub • Sur • Face

Yan Geng

MFA candidate

My art deals with the human face. It does so in an abstract way. I don't believe that the face itself really shows us very much truth on the surface. My exploration constitutes an attempt to give up the surface and to enter into the "subsurface".

In reality people seem like performances on stage. This is explored in my works through the use of light behind the figure, which turns the background into a "human stage".

On this "stage" people's interior psyche is concealed by their exterior emotions. My various feelings concerning this psychological aspect within my work are expressed primarily through the use of spontaneous gestural painting. Instead of a more familiar rendering approach describing the physical features of specific human faces, this gestural approach is used to portray hints of deeper psychological states within a traditional portrait format. Hence, there are no facial features, no ages, no genders, and no nationalites in these faces. Additionally, the color suggests further human traits and psychological states. All of the connections in the paintings are intended to make viewers think about and experience the inner life beneath the surface of these "faces". Consequently, my paintings are psychological portraits rather than physical portraits.

My concern with integrating techniques of abstract painting with figural subjects is stimulated by an attempt to foster an increasingly open-minded approach to making art. By combining these two, sometimes mutually exclusive spheres of representation in this way, I hope to constitute a new way of representing the human psyche.

Curriculum vitae

Personal:

Last Name: Geng First Name: Yan

Telephone: 780-710-9810

Email: gengyan919@gmail.com

Education:

 Sep 2006/ Jan 2009, MFA, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

- Sep 2003/ July 2006, M.A, Hebei Normal University, Shi Jiazhuang, China
- Sep 1999/July 2003, B.A, Hebei Normal University, Shi Jiazhuang, China.

Working Experience:

- Oct 2008 to present, Gallery assistant at Gallery A of University of Alberta Museum
- Sep 2008 to present, Graduate Research Assistance under the supervision of Professor Graham Peacock
- July- August 2008, Teaching Assistant in Painting
- Dec 2007-April 2008 Graduate Research Assistance under the supervision of Professor Graham Peacock
- Dec 2007-April 2008 Teaching Assistant in painting program as a Scholarship holder, U of A
- Jun 4-July 27 2007, Graduate Research Assistance under the supervision of Professor Graham Peacock
- April & Aug 2007 working at the painting studio for Art and Design Department, U of A
- November 2006 working at Graham Peacock's studio
- Dec 2006-April 2007 Teaching assistance in painting program, U of A
- Jan.2005/Feb.2005 Teaching oil painting and gouache portrait in YUCAI School of Fine Arts, Hebei, China
- Nov.2004/Jan.2005 Teaching drawing and painting in Education Center of Fine Arts, Hebei, China
- Mar 2003-May 2003 Teaching drawing and painting in college entrance examination class of Academy of Fine Arts, Hebei Province
- July2000-Aug 2000 Teaching drawing and painting in No. Six Middle School of Shi Jiazhuang, Hebei Province
- Jan.2000/Feb.2000 Teaching drawing and gouache painting in LIU YE TONG School of Fine Arts, Shi Jiazhuang

Group Exhibitions:

December 16th 2008-Jan 17th 2009, Modern city I, Modern city II, FAB

- Gallery, Alberta
- Jan 19th-Feb 17th 2008, Drawing, *Calligraphy III*, Art Gallery of Alberta, Alberta
- Jan 28th-Feb 27th 2007, Drawing, *Building Cluster I* and *Building Cluster V*, Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton
- Sep 2005, oil painting, *Illusion*, Small style oil painting exhibition of Hebei Province
- Jan.2005, MODERN CITY, the Forth National Exhibition Oil Painting of Landscape
- Nov.2004, Peking Opera, The First Annual Graduate Student's exhibition of Hebei normal university, China
- April 2004, Sketch, NUDE and The Youth, Exhibited in all previous student's outstanding works exhibitions in academy of fine arts of Normal University, China
- Dec.2000 Oil paintings, *My Father* and *My Friend*, Hebei artist gallery, Shi Jiazhuang

Awards:

- 2008/2009 Fall Term, Graduate Research Assistantship
- 2008 Summer Term, Teaching Assistantship
- 2007-2008 University of Alberta Master of Fine Arts (MFA), Master of Design (MDes) Scholarship
- Dec2007-April 2008, Graduate Research Assistantship
- June 2007, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Graduate Scholarship
- June4-July 27 2007, Graduate Research Assistantship
- 2006-2007 University of Alberta Master of Fine Arts (MFA), Master of Design (MDes) Scholarship
- 2003-2004 Obtained the professional scholarship of graduate student of University
- 2001-2002 Obtained the professional scholarship of University
- 2000-2001 Granted the special professional scholarship of University
- 2000-2001 Oil painting "HOPE" obtained the Third Prize in the student exhibition of academic of Fine Arts
- 1999-2000 Obtained the professional scholarship of University

	TITLE	MEDIUM	DATE	SIZE
1.	Affability	Acrylic and Oil on Masonite	2008.4	36"X24"
2.	Gloomy	Acrylic and Oil on Masonite	2008.11	48"X36.25"
3.	Unease	Acrylic and Oil on Masonite	2008.8	48"X39.75"
4.	Hallucination	Acrylic and Oil on Canvas	2008.6	36"X24"
5.	Hysterical	Acrylic and Oil on Masonite	2008.4	33"X24"
6.	Sincere	Acrylic and Plaster on canvas	2008.10	40"X24"
7.	Mask	Acrylic and Oil on Linen	2008.12	56.5"X34.5"
8.	Peeking II	Acrylic and Oil on Canvas	2008.11	24.25"X36.75"
9.	Tenacious	Acrylic and Oil on Linen	2008.10	24"X24"
10.	Agitated	Acrylic and Oil on Masonite	2008.8	36"X24"
11	Peeking I	Acrylic and Oil on Canvas	2008.11	24.2"X32.3"
12	Adolescent I	Acrylic and Oil on Canvas	2008.8	24"X24"
13	Aggressive	Acrylic and Oil on Masonite	2008.11	35.8"X24.2"
14	Lost	Acrylic and Oil on Canvas	2008.6	59"X36"
15	Anticipation	Acrylic and Oil on Canvas	2008.10	35.5"X24"
16	Sending Off	Acrylic and Oil on Linen	2009.1	46.75"X36.5"
17	Bowing out	Acrylic and Oil on Linen	2008.11	48 "X35.5"
18	Stay Warm	Acrylic and Oil on Canvas	2008.11	54.25"X41.25"
19	Fatigued	Acrylic and Oil on Canvas	2008.11	37"X48"

20	Perplexed	Acrylic and Oil on Linen	2008.12	57"X39.5"
21	Exhausted	Acrylic and Oil on Linen	2008.12	57"X39.5"
22	Insidious	Acrylic and Oil on Linen	2009.1	60.75"X35.5"
23	Adolescent [[Oil and Acrylic on Linen	2008.10	31.7"X41"
24	Panicky	Acrylic and Oil on Linen	2008.12	35.5"X47.75"
25	Reach Forward	Acrylic and Oil on Canvas	2008.6	48"X34"







Affability Acrylic and Oil on Masonite 2008.4 36"X24"



Gloomy Acrylic and Oil on Masonite 2008.11 48"X36.25"



Hysterical zzAcrylic and Oil on Masonite 2008.4 33"X24"



Unease Acrylic and Oil on Masonite 2008.8 48"X39.75"



Hallucination Acrylic and Oil on Canvas 2008.6 36"X24"



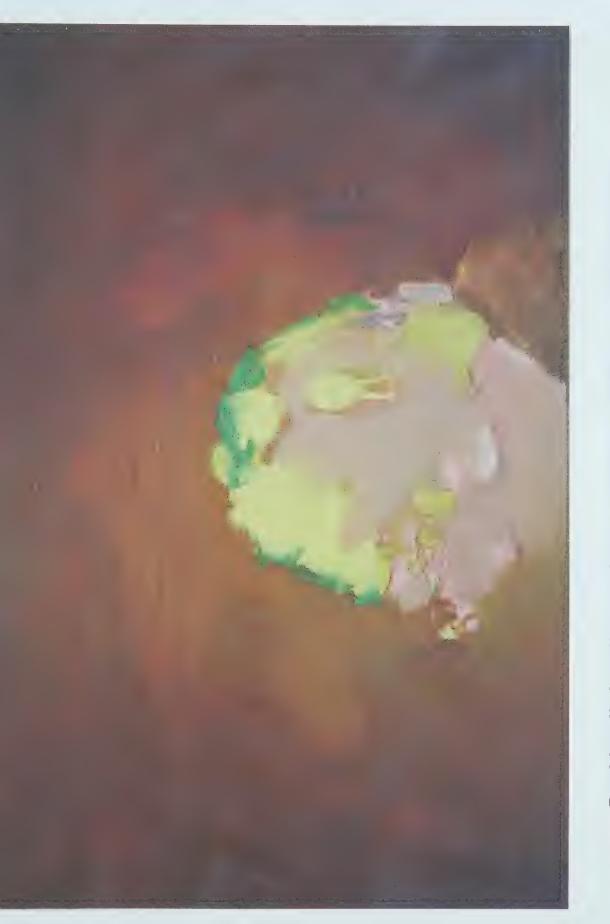
Aggressive Acrylic and Oil on Masonite 2008.11 35.8"X24.2"



Mask Acrylic and Oil on Linen 2008.12 56.5"X34.5"



Sincere Acrylic and Plaster on Masonite 2008.10 40"X24"



Peeking II Acrylic and Oil on Canvas 2008.11 24.25"X36.75"



Tenacious Acrylic and Oil on Linen 2008.10 24"X24"



Agitated Acrylic and Oil on Masonite 2008.8 36"X24"

Peeking I Acrylic and Oil on Canvas 2008.11 24.2"X32.3"



Adolescent I Acrylic and Oil on Canvas 2008.8 24"X24"



Lost Acrylic and Oil on Canvas 2008.6 59"X36"



Anticipation Acrylic and Oil on Canvas 2008.10 35.5"X24"



Sending Off Acrylic and Oil on Linen 2009.1 46.75"X36.5"



Bowing out Acrylic and Oil on Linen 2008.11 48"X35.5"



Stay Warm Acrylic and Oil on Canvas 2008.11 54.25"X41.25"



Perplexed Acrylic and Oil on Linen 2008.12 57"X39.5"

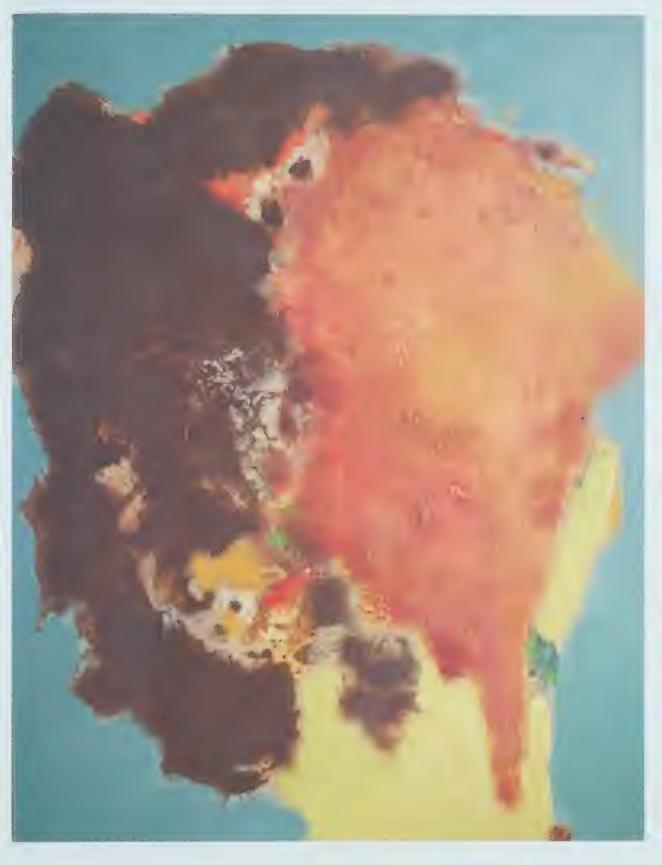
Fatigued Acrylic and Oil on Canvas 2008.11 37"X48"



Exhausted Acrylic and Oil on Linen 2008.12 57"X39.5"



Insidious Acrylic and Oil on Linen 2009.1 60.75"X35.5"



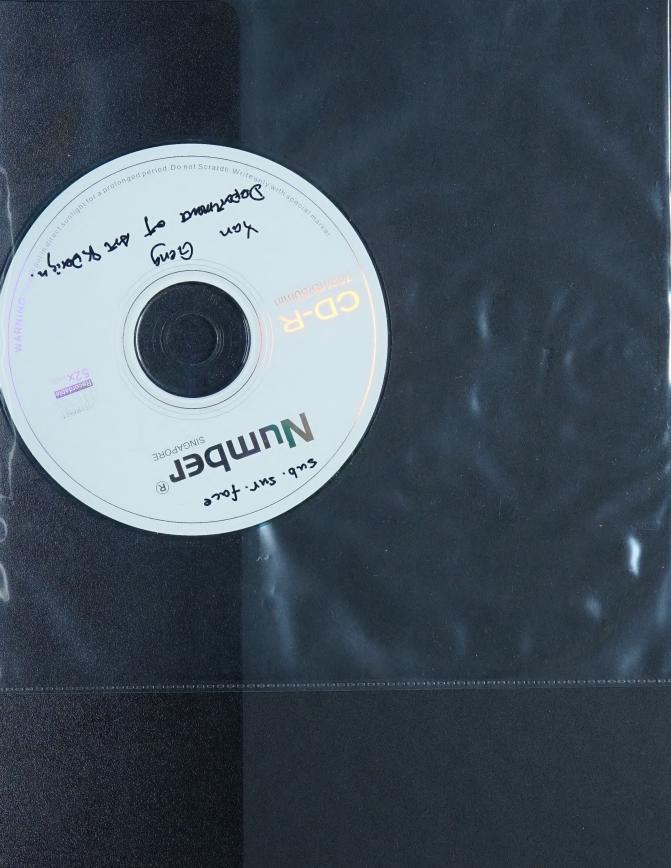
Adolescent II Oil and Acrylic on Linen 2008.10 31.7"X41"





Reach Forward Acrylic and Oil on Canvas 2008.6 48"X34"









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